

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
-----100042 232109Z /62

R 230648Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1769

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BG, CH
SUBJ: VISIT OF VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN

REF: A) DACCA 1450 (NOTAL); B) DACCA 1511 (NOTAL); C) 77 DACCA 0140
(NOTAL); D) SEOUL 1935; E) DACCA 1720 (NOTAL); F) DACCA 1747
(NOTAL)

1. VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AND AN OFFICIAL
ENTOURAGE OF THIRTY-THREE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES VISITED
BANGLADESH FROM MARCH 18-21. THE DELEGATION, THE FIRST
HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL CHINESE VISIT (AS DISTINGUISHED
FROM VARIOUS TRADE OR GOODWILL TEAMS SUCH AS THAT HEADED
RECENTLY BY WANG PING-NAN (REFTEL A) SINCE BILATERAL
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RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED WAS WELCOMED LAVISHLY AS
EDITORIALS EXPOUNDED ON "THE GENUINE, DEEP AND BOUNDLESS"
FREINDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DURING THE VISIT, LI
MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN AND TWO AGRE-
MENTS WERE ULTIMATELY SIGNED, ONE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AND ANOTHER ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. FROM
INITIAL READINGS, IT APPEARS THAT THE BDG CONSIDERED THE VISIT

A SUCCESS.

2. IN THE ECONOMIC ACCORD, THE PRC AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO BANGLADESH AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN WORTH TAKA 85 CRORE (\$56.7 MILLION) TO FINANCE PREVIOUSLY-PLANNED PROJECTS AND COMMODITY PURCHASES. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LOAN WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER PLANT (REPORTED REFTEL B) AND AN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PROJECT COVERING A 4500 ACRE AREA IN KALIGANJ, DACCA DISTRICT. THE REMAINING TWENTY PERCENT OF THE LOAN WILL BE USED TO FINANCE COMMODITY IMPORTS. THE LOAN IS REPAYABLE IN EITHER CASH OR IN-KIND PAYMENTS OVER TEN YEARS FOLLOWING A TWELVE YEAR GRACE PERIOD.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE EXTENSIVE CEREMONIAL WELCOME, WHICH WAS IN RECIPROCATION FOR THE UNUSUALLY WARM WELCOME GIVEN PRESIDENT ZIA IN PEKING LAST YEAR (REF C), THE BDG WAS EAGER TO PAY ITS RESPECTS TO A COUNTRY WHICH SINCE RECOGNITION IN SEPTEMBER, 1975, HAS GIVEN BANGLADESH CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY. AT A BANQUET MARCH 18 GIVEN BY THE BDG, ZIA INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION" FOR THE RAPIDLY GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND CHINA" AND USED THE OCCASION TO REITERATE "THE FIRM RESOLVE OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH TO SAFEGUARD THEIR HARD-EARNED INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY." LI GAVE HIS ASSURANCE DURING A RETURN BANQUET THAT "THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WILL, AS ALWAYS, CONFIDENTIAL

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RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY." LI ALSO NOTED THAT THE "ANTI-HEGEMONIST UNITED FRONT", WITH THE THIRD WORLD AS ITS MAIN STRENGTH, HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST HEGEMONISM.

4. THE ASSURANCES OF CHINESE BILATERAL SUPPORT WERE NO DOUBT INTENDED TO BOLSTER BANGLADESH IN ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING INZJA (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, OF COURSE, WITH THE USSR). EDITORIALS PRAISED LI'S REMARKS, ESPECIALLY NOTING, AS DID THE BANGLADESH TIMES, THAT PEACE AND REGIONAL STABILITY WOULD BE ENHANCED BY CHINA'S CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP. THERE WAS NO MENTION PUBLICLY OF A PRC SPONSORED ASIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE, RUMORS OF WHICH HAD BEEN HEARD IN SEOUL (REF D) AND ELSEWHERE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY SIGNATURE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA01769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0073
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780334/aaaabbyp.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb3c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DACCA 1450, 78 DACCA 1511, 77 DACCA 140
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3229502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN
TAGS: PEPR, ECON, TGEN, BG, CH, (LI HSIEN-NIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb3c1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014